GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:554
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2007
THERMAL POWER STATIONS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of coal-based thermal power stations in the country are running at less than 55% Power Load Factor (PLF);

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these power plants become of the international standard with regard to PLF?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) & (b) : Out of 91 coal / lignite based Thermal Power Stations, where Plant Load Factor (PLF) is being monitored in Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 23 stations have registered less than 55% PLF during the current year (April, 2006 − January, 2007), as per details given in Annexure.

(c) & (d) : The following steps have been taken / are being taken to improve PLF of power stations in the country :

(i) `Partnership in Excellence` (PIE) Programme has been initiated by Ministry of Power, Government of India, in August, 2005 at 22 thermal stations covering 70 units to improve the performance of thermal plants operating at PLF below 60%, through tie-up with well performing power utilities. Government of India provided grant for consultancy charges of these better performing organizations and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) provided loan assistance at subsidized rate of interest. Under the PIE programme, the improvement in performance of thermal power stations is being achieved in phased manner by adopting measures such as toning up of Operation & Maintenance (O&M) practices, training of operating personnel and procurement of essential spares, carrying out comprehensive capital overhauling and by doing essential Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) works to improve PLF above 60%. Thereafter major R&M / Life Extension (LE) works would be carried out based on the Residual Life Assessment (RLA) studies, subject to techno- economic viability.

(ii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation under `Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP).

(iii) All possible efforts are being made to improve the PLF of the plants operating at low PLF but it is very difficult to enhance the PLF of some of the power stations operating in the country up to the level of international standard as (a) these stations are very old and have completed their useful economical life, (b) most of them have generating units of small size and original equipment manufacturer have stopped manufacturing of plant & equipment / spares for these units and (c) some of these are not getting coal of designed quality.